

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

di Landoccio, " he would be obeyed as true pastor ; but, in temporal matters, they plead their great poverty and the misery into which they are come. I am grieved to the heart at seeing that the Holy Father has not had full satisfaction from this city ; and I promise you that I have so much spoken about it, and especially while Maestro Francesco was here, that I was several times told that I talked more than befitted me on the subject. But I should reckon little of this, if only I saw done what is the honour of God."¹

There were similar difficulties elsewhere. The Florentines fully acknowledged Urban¹'s election, and turned a deaf ear to the appeals of Louis of Anjou against him ; but they were exceedingly slow in carrying out their part of the treaty, and already behind hand with the payment of the indemnity. It is probable that, in the continual state of alarm and anarchy into which the Republic had sunk after the tumult of the Ciompi, this was inevitable ; the Pope himself ultimately recognized the fact; but Catherine wrote to the Priors and Gonfaloniere, reproaching them for their ingratitude : " Let us not deceive ourselves, my sweet brothers. Many are the offences and iniquities which we have committed against God, against our neighbour, against the vicar of Christ, and against Holy Church ; you cannot cloak this iniquity by the sins of the pastors and ministers of the Church, for it does not pertain to you to punish them, but to the Supreme Judge and to His vicar. Now, notwithstanding these sins of yours, which have merited great punishment, you have received so much mercy; you have been restored with great benignity to the breast of Holy Church, made capable of receiving the fruit of the blood, if you will, by Pope Urban VI, true Supreme Pontiff and vicar of Christ on earth, who has pardoned you and absolved you with such great charity, giving you what you have asked, treating you not like children who had offended and rebelled against their father, but as though you had never offended him. Now you see him in such great

¹ June 22, 1379.
Lettert det discepoli, 13.
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